THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) As per data received from the Ministry of Agriculture, the total estimated production of fruits for the year 2005-06 is 584.14 lakhs M.T. In accordance with the report of M/s Rabo India Finance Pvt. Ltd., wastage of fruit and vegetables is estimated to be of the order of 22% occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting like inadequate post - harvest infrastructure, lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage and processing facilities etc.

For promotion of fruit and vegetable processing industries, financial assistance is provided by Ministry of Food Processing Industries in the form of grant under the scheme of Technology Upgradation/Modernisation/Establishment of food processing industries for setting up of new unit or for expansion of existing fruits & vegetables processing unit. Under this Scheme, MFPI extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of Plant and Machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas. In order to ensure speedy disbursement of the financial assistance, the Ministry has decided to decentralize the disbursement procedure through banks under the Scheme of setting up/modernization/expansion of food processing industries w.e.f. 01.04.07. Now the applicants will be able to avail of grant/assistance through the neighbourhood banks which have already appraised the project and provided loans to them.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has submitted a scheme to Planning Commission, which envisages providing financial assistance for setting up of thirty Mega Food Parks in the country during 11th Five Year Plan period. The scheme which is project oriented, aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimization of wastages and improving farmer's income. Mega Food Park envisages a well-defined agri/horticultural-processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well established supply chain. The primary objective of the scheme is to facilitate establishment of an integrated value chain, with processing at core and supported by requisite forward and backward linkages. Under the scheme, financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid upto 50% of the project cost in general areas and upto 75% of the project cost in special category states subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 crore or the cost of approved facilities, whichever is lower, has been envisaged for all implementing agencies.

(c) Vision 2015 on Food Processing Industries adopted by the Government envisages trebling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20% and level of processing of fruits and vegetables from 2.2% to 15% by the end of year 2014-15.

Share of Indian food processing industry in the international market

†631.SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the share of Indian food processing industry in the international market is unsatisfactory;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether the quantity of export can be increased by expediting research and testing work in this industry; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the details of the action plan therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, at present India's share of processed food export in the world is only 1.5%. The Government has accorded it a high priority area, with a number of fiscal incentives to encourage and boost up the commercialization and value addition to the agricultural produce. The Ministry is assisting food processing units to improve their quality standards so that they can compete better in the international markets and exports increased. Ministry of Food Processing Indusries extends financial assistance for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep and ITDP Areas. Under the Mini Mission IV of Technology Mission for Intergrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim, J&K, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, assistance at still higher rates i.e. @ 50% upto Rs.4 crores for promotion of new units and upto Rs. 1 crore for Upgradation/ modernization of existing units is available for processing of horticulture produce. This effort towards modernization would further improve their cost competitiveness and quality levels in the world markets and result in growth of exports. Government has also provided several excise/customs duty reduction and income tax exemption so as to increase cost competitiveness of food processing units. Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up Food Processing Industries on its own.

(c) and (d) Yes, the quantity of export can be increased by expediting research and testing work in this industry. In this regard this Ministry has been providing financial assistance to institutions for research and development work and also for setting up food testing laboratories. Ministry has provided financial assistance amounting to Rs. 16.01 crores till Dec. 2006 for 41 R&D projects. Minisry has also provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 52.83 crores to 36 food testing laboratories so far.

Fees of private schools

632. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to bring a law to administer all the primary and middle level private schools mushrooming in the country, offering education to children with inflated fees, but without basic infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Education being in the Concurrent List, the matter regarding estblishment, recognition and regulation of private schools comes under the jurisdiction of respective States/UTs.